

Hearing Date: December 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. (AST)
Objection Deadline: November 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. (AST)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

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In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

PROMESA
Title III

as representative of

Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*

(Jointly Administered)

Debtors.¹

-----X
In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

PROMESA
Title III

as representative of

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY,

**This Notice relates only
to PREPA, and shall be filed in
Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS and
Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS**

Debtor.

-----X
NOTICE OF MOTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”), by and through the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (the “Oversight Board”), as PREPA’s representative pursuant to section 315(b) of the *Puerto Rico Oversight*,

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283- LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17- BK-4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

*Management, and Economic Stability Act (“PROMESA”),*² is filing the annexed *PREPA’s Motion for Entry of Order Pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Further Enlarging the Time Within Which to File Notices of Removal Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027* (the “Motion”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that responses or objections to the Motion must be in writing, must conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the *Tenth Amended Case Management Procedures* (ECF No. 8027-1) (the “Case Management Procedures”), and must be filed with the Court (a) by registered users of the Court’s case filing system, electronically in accordance with rule 5 of the Local Rules for the District of Puerto Rico, and (b) by all other parties in interest, on a CDROM, in text-searchable portable document format (PDF), and served on (a) counsel for the Oversight Board, Proskauer Rose LLP, Eleven Times Square, New York, New York 10036-8299 (Attn: Martin J. Bienenstock, Esq., Paul V. Possinger, Esq., and Ehud Barak, Esq.), and O’Neill & Borges LLC, 250 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 800, San Juan, PR 00918-1813 (Attn: Hermann D. Bauer, Esq.); (b) counsel for the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, 7 Times Square, New York, New York 10036 (Attn: John J. Rapisardi, Esq., Suzzanne Uhland, Esq., Peter Friedman, Esq., Nancy A. Mitchell, Esq., and Maria J. DiConza, Esq.) and Marini Pietrantonì Muñoz LLC, MCS Plaza, Suite 500, 255 Ponce de León Ave., San Juan, PR 00917 (Attn: Luis C. Marini-Biaggi, Esq., Carolina Velaz-Rivero Esq., and María T. Álvarez-Santos, Esq.); and (c) the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 21, Edificio Ochoa, 500 Tanca Street, Suite 301, San Juan, PR 00901-1922, so as to be received no later than **November 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. (Atlantic Standard Time)**.

² PROMESA is codified at 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101-2241.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that hearing will be held before the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Court Judge, in Room 3 of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, 150 Carlos Chardón Street, Federal Building, Office 150, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1767 (the “Court”), on **December 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. (Atlantic Standard Time)**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, to consider the relief sought by the Debtors in the Motion.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the relief requested in the Motion may be granted without a hearing if no objection is timely filed, served, and received in accordance with the Case Management Procedures.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Motion including all exhibits, and all documents filed in these title III cases are available (a) free of charge by visiting <https://cases.primeclerk.com/puertorico> or by calling +1 (844) 822-9231, and (b) on the Court’s website at <http://www.prd.uscourts.gov>, subject to the procedures and fees set forth therein.

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Dated: November 15, 2019
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Martin J. Bienenstock

Martin J. Bienenstock (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Brian S. Rosen (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Paul V. Possinger (admitted *pro hac vice*)
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Management Board as representative for PREPA*

Hearing Date: December 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. (AST)
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
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PROMESA
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Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*

(Jointly Administered)

Debtors.³

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In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

PROMESA
Title III

as representative of

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

**This Motion relates only
to PREPA, and shall be filed in
Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS and
Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS**

-----X
**PREPA'S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF ORDER PURSUANT TO RULE 9006(b) OF
THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE FURTHER
ENLARGING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH TO FILE NOTICES
OF REMOVAL PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULE 9027**

³ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority ("PBA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

To the Honorable United States District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain:

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”), by and through the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (the “Oversight Board”), as PREPA’s representative pursuant to section 315(b) of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* (“PROMESA”),⁴ respectfully submits this motion (the “Motion”), pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), made applicable to this case pursuant to PROMESA section 310, for entry of an order, substantially in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Proposed Order”), further enlarging the time within which to file notices of removal of proceedings pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a). In support of this Motion, PREPA respectfully states as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue

1. The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the “Court”) has subject matter jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to PROMESA section 306(a).
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to PROMESA section 307(a).
3. The statutory predicate for the relief sought herein is Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b), made applicable to this case by PROMESA section 310.

Background

4. On June 29, 2017 (the “Petition Date”), the Oversight Board issued a restructuring certification pursuant to PROMESA sections 104(j) and 206, and on July 2, 2017, the Oversight Board filed a voluntary petition for relief for PREPA pursuant to section 304(a) of PROMESA, commencing a case under title III thereof (the “Title III Case”).

⁴ PROMESA is codified at 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101-2241.

5. On September 11, 2017, PREPA filed *PREPA's Motion for Entry of Order Pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Enlarging the Time Within Which to File Notices of Removal Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027* [Case No. 17-4780-LTS, ECF No. 284].

6. On October 6, 2017, the Court entered an order granting the joint administration of PREPA's Title III Case with the Commonwealth's Title III case, for procedural purposes only [Case No. 17-03283-LTS; ECF No. 1417].

7. On October 30, 2018, the Court entered an order enlarging the time within which PREPA may file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) through the later of: (i) May 28, 2019; or (ii) any later date prescribed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3) [Case No. 17-4780-LTS; ECF No. 1003].

8. On May, 20, 2019, PREPA filed *PREPA's Motion for Entry of Order Pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Enlarging the Time Within Which to File Notices of Removal Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027* [Case No. Case No. 17-4780-LTS, ECF No. 1243].

9. On June 3, 2019, the Court entered an order further enlarging the time within which PREPA may file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) through the later of: (i) November 25, 2019; or (ii) any later date prescribed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3) [Case No. 17-4780-LTS; ECF No. 1266].

10. Background information regarding PREPA and the commencement of the Title III Case is contained in the *Notice of Statement of Oversight Board Regarding PREPA's Title III Case* [Case No. 17-04780-LTS; ECF No. 2].

Relief Requested

11. By this Motion, PREPA seeks entry of an order, substantially in the form of the Proposed Order, further enlarging the time within which PREPA may file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) through and including the later of: (i) May 26, 2020, which is 183 days after the current deadline of November 25, 2019 (180 days from November 25, 2019 falls on May 23, 2020, which is a Saturday, and May 25, 2020 is a federal holiday (Memorial Day), and thus, under Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a)(1)(C) the period shall continue to run until the end of the next day, May 26, 2020); or (ii) any later date prescribed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3).

Basis for Relief Requested

12. PROMESA section 306(d) provides for the removal of actions to this Court:

A party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action, other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce the police or regulatory power of the governmental unit, to the district court for the district in which the civil action is pending, if the district court has jurisdiction of the claim or cause of action under this section

48 U.S.C. § 2166(d)(1).

13. Bankruptcy Rule 9027, which is made applicable to this Title III Case pursuant to PROMESA section 310, sets forth the time period for the filing of notices to remove claims or causes of action. Bankruptcy Rule 9027 provides in pertinent part:

- (a)(2) If the claim or cause of action in a civil action is pending when a case under the Code is commenced, a notice of removal may be filed only within the longest of (A) 90 days after the order for relief in the case under the Code, (B) 30 days after entry of an order terminating a stay, if the claim or cause of action in a civil action has been stayed under § 362 of the Code, or (C) 30 days after a trustee qualifies in a chapter 11 reorganization case but not later than 180 days after the order for relief.
- (a)(3) If a claim or cause of action is asserted in another court after commencement of a case under the Code, a notice of removal may be filed with the clerk only within the shorter of (A) 30 days after receipt, through service or otherwise, or a copy of the initial pleading

setting forth the claim or cause of action sought to be removed or (B) 30 days after receipt of the summons if the initial pleading has been filed with the court but not served with the summons.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9027.

14. Bankruptcy Rule 9006 permits the Court to enlarge the period to remove actions provided for by Bankruptcy Rule 9027. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) provides in pertinent part:

- (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subdivision, when an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specific period by these rules or by a notice given thereunder or by order of the court, the court for cause shown may at any time in its discretion (1) with or without motion or notice order the period enlarged if the request therefor is made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order or (2) on motion made after the expiration of the specific period permit the act to be done where the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect.

Id. 9006(b).

15. Courts routinely extend the removal period pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006. *See Pacor, Inc. v. Higgins*, 743 F.2d 984, 996 n.17 (3d Cir. 1984) (stating the court's power to grant an extension of the removal period pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) is "clear"), *overruled on other grounds by Things Remembered, Inc. v. Petrarca*, 516 U.S. 124, 134-35 (1995); *see also Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co., Inc.*, 251 B.R. 322, 325 (S.D. W.Va. 2000) (noting Bankruptcy Rule 9006 provides authority to enlarge time periods for removing actions under Bankruptcy Rule 9027); *Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp. v. City of New York (In re Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp.)*, 106 B.R. 48, 50 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) (finding the period in which to file motion to remove may be expanded pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006); *In re World Fin. Servs. Ctr., Inc.*, 81 B.R. 33, 39 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1987) (noting United States Supreme Court intended to give

judges the power to enlarge the filing periods under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)).⁵

16. Courts have previously granted the same or similar relief requested in this Motion. *See, e.g., In re Patriot Coal Corp.*, Case No. 12-12900 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 5, 2012) (extending the removal deadline with respect to civil actions pending as of the petition date through and including the effective date of any plan of reorganization); *In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc.*, Case No. 09-11435 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 17, 2009 (extending removal deadline through plan confirmation); *In re Chemtura Corp.*, Case No. 09-11233 (REG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 16, 2009) (same); *In re Frontier Airlines Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 08-11298 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 18, 2008) (extending removal deadline through effective date of any plan of reorganization).

17. Cause exists for the Court to further enlarge the time within which PREPA may file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a). Since the commencement of the Title III Case, PREPA and its professionals and advisors have been dedicating a significant amount of their time to negotiating a restructuring support agreement that aims to provide PREPA and its creditors with a path toward restructuring billions of dollars in legacy debt and facilitating PREPA's transformation process. As a result of such negotiations, PREPA has filed the *Joint Motion of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and AAFAF Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Sections 362, 502, 922, and 928, and Bankruptcy Rules 3012(A)(1) and 9019 for Order Approving Settlements Embodied in the Restructuring Support Agreement and Tolling Certain Limitations Periods* [ECF No. 1235], and continues to work towards PREPA's successful restructuring.

⁵ In cases under title 11 of the United States Code, 28 U.S.C. § 1452 provides the authority for the removal of civil claims and actions. PROMESA section 306(d)(1) tracks the language of 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a).

18. As of the Petition Date, PREPA was a party to over 300 civil actions, which will require a case-by-case analysis to determine the merits of seeking the removal as to each case. PREPA has removed three actions, including (i) *Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority v. Puerto Rico Energy Commission*, Adv. Proc. No. 17-256-LTS, (ii) *Rivera v. Puerto Rico*, Adv. Proc. No. 18-00047-LTS; and (iii) *Gaudier v. Nevares*, Adv. Proc. No. 18-0053-LTS. PREPA and its professionals are continuing to review the 300-plus civil actions to determine which civil action(s) should be removed. No other party is prejudiced by extending the time for the filing of notices to remove claims or causes of action. Accordingly, PREPA believes cause exists for the Court to enlarge the removal period through and including the later of (i) May 26, 2020, or (ii) any later date prescribed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3), to afford PREPA sufficient time to review and analyze the civil actions to which it is a party.

Notice

19. PREPA has provided notice of this Motion to: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico; (b) the indenture trustees and/or agents, as applicable, for PREPA's bonds; (c) the statutory committee appointed in this Title III Case; (d) the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico; (e) counsel to the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority; (f) the Puerto Rico Department of Justice; and (g) all parties filing a notice of appearance in these Title III Cases. PREPA submits that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

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WHEREFORE, PREPA respectfully requests the Court enter the Proposed Order, granting the relief requested in the Motion, and granting PREPA such other relief as is just and proper.

Dated: November 15, 2019
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Martin J. Bienenstock

Martin J. Bienenstock (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Brian S. Rosen (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Paul V. Possinger (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Ehud Barak (admitted *pro hac vice*)
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*Attorneys for the Financial Oversight and
Management Board as representative for PREPA*

/s/ Hermann D. Bauer

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*Co-Attorneys for the Financial Oversight and
Management Board as representative for PREPA*

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

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In re: THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO, as representative of THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, <i>et al.</i> Debtors. ¹	PROMESA Title III Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS (Jointly Administered)
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In re: THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO, as representative of PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY, Debtor.	PROMESA Title III Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS RE: ECF No. ____ This Order relates only to PREPA.
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**ORDER PURSUANT TO RULE 9006(b) OF THE FEDERAL
RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE FURTHER
ENLARGING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH PREPA MAY FILE
NOTICES OF REMOVAL PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULE 9027**

¹ The Debtors in the jointly-administered Title III cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (iv) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

Upon PREPA's Motion for Entry of Order Pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Further Enlarging the Time Within Which to File Notices of Removal Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027 (the "Motion");² and the Court having found it has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 306(a) of PROMESA; and it appearing that venue in this district is proper pursuant to section 307(a) of PROMESA; and the Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of PREPA, its creditors, and other parties in interest; and the Court having found that PREPA provided adequate and appropriate notice of the Motion under the circumstances and that no other or further notice is required; and the Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements of counsel in support of the Motion at a hearing held before the Court (the "Hearing"); and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and any objections to the relief requested herein having been withdrawn or overruled on the merits; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.
2. The deadline for PREPA to file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) is extended through and including the later of: (i) May 26, 2020, or (ii) any later date prescribed by Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3).
3. The foregoing is without prejudice to PREPA's right to seek further extensions of the time within which to remove related proceedings.

² Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

4. Notwithstanding any applicability of any Bankruptcy Rule, the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

5. The Oversight Board, as PREPA's representative, is authorized to take all actions, and to execute all documents, necessary or appropriate, to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

6. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any and all disputes related to or arising from the implementation, interpretation and enforcement of this Order.

Dated: _____, 2019

Honorable Laura Taylor Swain
United States District Judge